

OFFICER'S REPORTS

THE SOCIETY

2012

The 2011 report began by highlighting the Society's involvement in the HS2 consultation process, and this work continued throughout 2012. The results of the Environmental Impact Assessment were made available, following which there was a further period of consultation. Both Council and the Historic Buildings' Group geared up to respond and continued to take a very active role in highlighting the tremendous impact that this project will have on historically and archaeologically sensitive sites and environments across the county.

The Historic Buildings' Group focused its attention during the year on the completion of the Great Horwood and Wingrave village survey reports, and continued to record historic pub buildings in the county. However, HS2 inevitably dominated the programme, with visits to Potter Row, Doddershall, Road Farm Barn, Wendover and Stoke Mandeville old church. Members of Council and the Historic Buildings' Group visited the latter site early in 2012, and in May, the Society published "Last Chance for Stoke Mandeville's deserted village?" a well-researched and professionally presented booklet written by Peter Marsden, with contributions by Mike Farley, Marian Miller, Richard Gem and Bill Willett.

On a sad note, the Society learned of the death of Alan Dell on January 19th 2012. Alan's obituary appeared in the 2013 *Records of Buckinghamshire*, but members will be aware of Alan's research interests and varied publications, and of the very great contribution he made to the library. Even when unwell, Alan was to be found there every Wednesday, doing whatever tasks he was able to tackle. Alan generously bequeathed £1000 to the library.

Volume 52 of *Records of Buckinghamshire* was published, with leading articles on ice age mammals, turnpike road bridges, medieval Chicheley Hall, 12th century barons and the Black Death. Alan Dell's article on The Goodalls of Dinton and Eton was

published posthumously.

On September 8th the Society took an active part in the "Origins of Aylesbury" day, held in and around St Mary's Church. In addition to a variety of interesting and informative displays in the church, there was a number of extremely well attended themed walks and an exhibition on the archaeology of the town in the County Museum. In the evening, Mike Farley gave an excellent illustrated talk entitled "The Historic Origins of Aylesbury", proceeds from which were donated to the Florence Nightingale Hospice. This event, hosted jointly by several organisations including The Aylesbury Society, Aylesbury Town Council, the County Museum and BAS, was a great success.

This year's Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference was themed "Women in Buckinghamshire" and featured fascinating and diverse talks on suffragettes, lace makers, the Nightingales, Betsy Wynne, Mrs Delany and Anglo-Saxon royal women. The event, held at Dr Challoner's School in Little Chalfont, was attended and well received by over 150 people.

Four council meetings were held during the year: January 14th, March 10th, June 9th and October 20th, with the AGM being held on 12th May 2012.

Work on the Society's Constitution, led by Mike Farley, finally came to fruition when the proposed changes were unanimously voted in by the membership at May's AGM. Mike Farley, Thea van Dam, George Lamb and Peter Marsden all came to the end of their terms of office on Council in May. Mike remained as Vice President and Holding Trustee of the Society, while Peter was elected as Chair of Council under the new Constitution. Thea and George continued in their respective roles as newsletter editor and outings organiser. Other notable elections at the AGM included Bronwen Lee as Honorary Membership Secretary (to replace Honor Lewington), Graham Parker as Treasurer

(having been in an acting position prior to this), and Michael Ghirelli and Yvonne Edwards as Council members. Professor Richard Marks FSA was elected as a Holding Trustee, following the death of Sir Timothy Raison.

Diana Gulland retired in May, after 17 years as Honorary Librarian and Archivist. In the words of President Richard Gem: "It is difficult to know quite how the Society will manage without her – though we shall have to." And indeed, others have stepped up to continue Diana's work, most notably Honor Lewington, who not only became Honorary Archivist, but also took on the task of training a team of volunteers, who ably manned the library on a Wednesday morning. What was much harder to replace was Diana's wealth of knowledge and expertise; she was greatly missed. Diana did not however completely finish her work for the

Society, having been elected as Vice President at the AGM.

And so another year passes. Your Society remains active and vibrant, but the majority of work is being carried out by a minority of members. What support could you offer to take the Society forward in 2013?

Sue Fox, Retired Honorary Secretary

This report was largely written by Sue Fox who served with distinction as Honorary Secretary of the Society from 2009 until 2012. Her successor was Penny Braithwaite, and then in 2013, the position has been held by Michael Ghirelli.

Michael Ghirelli, Honorary Secretary

Lecture Programme 2012

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| 14 January | Buckinghamshire Coaching Inns.
<i>Julian Hunt</i> |
| 4th February | The History of Henley on Thames. <i>Simon Townley</i> |
| 10th March | Techniques of Town Plan Analysis: Examples from Mediaeval Towns in Herts and Bucks. <i>Terry Slater</i> |
| 10th November | Buckinghamshire Breweries.
<i>Julian Hunt</i> |
| 8th December | Rural Housing in Two Eras: 1660–1834 and 1890–1950.
<i>John Broad</i> |

Outings 2012

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| 9th June | Stony Stratford, led by Julian Hunt |
| 21st July | Northampton and Brixworth, led by Julian Hunt and Richard Gem |
| 2nd September | Piggots Hill, led by John Morris and Nicholas Wheeler-Robinson |

THE LIBRARY

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE 2012

1. Books

- AITKIN, Margaret. Stoke Hammond Yesteryear. 1997.
BEACONSFIELD, Earl of. Home Letters. 1885.
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BIRD CLUB. Buckinghamshire Bird Report 2010. 2010.
CUTLER, J. editor. Voices from an English Village. Repr. 2011.
EYERS, J.E. Romans in the Hambleden Valley. 2011.
HEALEY, J. History of the Chiltern Line. 1996.
JACKSON-STOPS, G. An English Arcadia 1600-1900. 1991.
JEWELL, P. Dunsmore, People and Happenings. 2009.
KENNISH, J. The Royal Stag at Datchet. 2011.
NAKAMA, M. A glimpse of the history of education in Wing. 2011.
ROSS, M. Drayton Beauchamp. 2011.
ROTHSCHILD ARCHIVE. The Rothschild Archive. 2011.
SPARKES, I. English Windsor Chairs. No date.
THROSSELL, E. Bonomi's Hartwell. No date.
VAUGHAN, K. Aylesbury then and now. 2012
WAINWRIGHT, MARSHALL, & SALKELD. Archaeological Survey of the Ashridge Estate. 2012.
WALLEN, M. Bucks Bird Report 2009. 2010.

2. Conservation area appraisals

- AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL. Stewkley Conservation Area. 2001.
Wendover Conservation Area. 2011.

3. Print

- DUNCAN, E. Cottage at Dorney. No date.

4. Quarrendon

- Small items including pamphlets and press cuttings relating to Quarrendon Open Day in 2006.

5. BAS Buildings Group reports

- MUIR, A. Windmill Farmhouse, Wingrave. 2011.
RICE, M. & MARSDEN, P. Hedgerley's Historic Public Houses. 2012.

6. Letter

- LIPSCOMBE letter to Lord Clifford. 1831.

7. Additional Items

- Journals and 16 other smaller items were also added to stock. These included pamphlets, church guides, and newspaper cuttings.

*Marian Miller
Hon. Librarian*

ON-LINE ACTIVITIES

The society's website (www.bucksas.org.uk) is regularly updated with details of society activities, – winter lectures, summer outings, the Bucks Local History Network Conference, and with the results of projects undertaken by members.

During 2013 the major additions to the website were in response to the continuing plans to build the HS2 high-speed rail line across Buckinghamshire. Members of the society, working together in the HS2 project group, surveyed various historic buildings and archaeological sites which will be affected along the planned route. These included:

- The site of Doddershall deserted medieval village
- A 'civil war gun battery' at Doddershall
- Research and geophysical survey around Stoke Mandeville's old churchyard

For these and earlier projects the website carries summary pages, with links that allow readers to view the full report on-screen, or to download a copy for printing or reading later.

The society's responses to various documents published by HS2 Limited can also be found on our website. These include the Draft Environmental Statement, Draft Code of Construction Practice, HS2 Design Refinements, and Bucks County Council's 'HS2 Mitigation Blueprint'.

With HS2 taking most of the attention, the work of the society's Historic Buildings Group took more of a back seat. Nonetheless, web pages and survey reports were added for:

- Windmill Farmhouse in Wingrave
- Church Loft in West Wycombe
- Uplands at Cryers Hill
- Shell House in Hedgerley

At the same time the Bucks Historic Pubs Survey continues, with a new report added for Stewkeley, bringing the total number of pubs surveyed to 124.

RECORDS OF BUCKS ON LINE

Volume One of *Records of Buckinghamshire* went on-line in February 2013, 159 years after its first publication in 1854. Although copies of its eight separately-published parts could be consulted in the society's library, Volume One had been out of print for many years. Digitisation has made its 57 articles readily accessible on-line, to download and print, for the first time in a century. Those articles include:

- Aylesbury Church in 1848, by George Gilbert Scott
- 'Stephening' in Drayton Beauchamp
- The destroyed and desecrated churches of Buckinghamshire
- On the Ancient Crosses incised on the Chiltern Hills
- Church bells of Buckinghamshire
- Biddlesden Abbey and its lands

Work has now started to add *Records* volumes 4 (1870–77) and 12 (1927–33) to the on-line archive. When completed, these will bring the number of articles to around 200. By the time this report is published the on-line index to *Records* for Volumes 1-53 should also be complete, thanks to the work of Diana Gulland.

The publication of articles in *Records* requires authors to assign copyright to the society, though the society will permit authors to reproduce their work elsewhere. The society is a charity: its publications, printed and on-line, are for public benefit, not financial gain. In the past, copyright did not cover on-line publication because the world-wide web had not yet been invented. The society has therefore made reasonable attempts to notify all past authors or their executors, in order to elicit agreement to the publication of their work on-line. In the absence of any objection, the society will assume that permission has been given.

To see how the project is progressing, go to www.bucksas.org.uk/onlinerecords

Peter Marsden